(c) Information relating to backlog of each class of reserved posts determined with reference to posts based rosters is not centrally maintained.

Dismissal of CBI cases for want of evidences

3613. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to slate:

(a) the number of cases filed by CBI during the last five years have been dismissed for want of evidence;

(b) whether in some of the cases, the courts had to express regrets on insufficient grounds or lack of substantive evidence; and

(c) Whether Government propose to modify the law to prevent frivolous prosecution of the so called accused for years together on insufficient grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):(a) During the last five years viz. 1995,1996, 1997,1998 & 1999,643 cases resulted in acquittal, out of the charge-sheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(b) During the last five year, the Courts had passed strictures in 8 cases.

(c) Cases are registered by CBI in accordance with the legal provisions and investigated under the close supervision of senior officers. Legal advice is obtained wherever required. A Charge-sheet is filed in a court of law only where sufficient evidence is available to prosecute the accused after thorough scrutiny
of available evidence. Due care is taken to avoid frivolous prosecution or prosecuting anyone against whom there are insufficient grounds.

Merger of various departments to reduce the size of administration

†3614. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR.D.MASTHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to merge certain departments in order to reduce the size of official machinery;

(b) if so, the names of such departments alongwith the assessment of the number of employees to be retrenched as a result of the merger of these departments, categorywise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the extent of financial savings likely to be accrued annually as a result of the merger of these departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Government has recently decided to merge the Department of Industrial Development with the department of Industrial Policy and Promotion vide notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on 3 April, 2000 under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has been asked to take necessary action to abolish such posts in the erstwhile Department of Industrial Development which are considered surplus to their requirement. The extent of financial savings likely to accrue annually will depend on the number of posts that may be abolished as a result of merger.

Bill of Right to Information

†3615. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill relating to Right to Information to common man has been finalised and approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be passed by Parliament; and

(c) if or decision has been taken on the passage of the Bill in this Session so far, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies the Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.